

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)	ORDER OF
)	
or Suspension of the Educator)	SUMMARY SUSPENSION
)	
Certification of Wendie A. Schweikert,)	
)	
Certificate 182327)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 8, 2006. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. §1-23-370(c) (2004), the State Department of Education (Department) requested that the State Board summarily suspend the educator certificate of Wendie A. Schweikert, certificate 182327. The Department has reason to believe that, due to the nature of allegations of misconduct that resulted in Ms. Schweikert's arrest and resignation from Laurens County School District Fifty-five on February 24, 2006, Ms. Schweikert may pose a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of students that may be under her instruction. After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to summarily suspend Ms. Schweikert's certificate until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The Department is directed to send a notice to Ms. Schweikert of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate, by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Schweikert holds a valid South Carolina certificate and has over nine years of teaching experience. During the 2005-06 school year, Ms. Schweikert was employed as a fifth grade teacher at E.B. Morse Elementary School in Laurens County School District Fifty-five (District). On February 24, 2006, Ms. Schweikert was arrested in Laurens County on two counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, Second Degree, based on allegations that Ms.

Schweikert had sexual relations with an eleven-year old male student. On February 24, 2006, Ms. Schweikert resigned from her employment with the District. Two additional arrest warrants have since been issued by the Greenville County Police Department for Second Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct and Performing a Lewd Act on a Child under 16 years.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State or the United States, immorality, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (1992). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), "If the agency finds that public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action." The State Board finds that there is reason to believe that Ms. Schweikert may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students that may be under her instruction. Accordingly, the State Board summarily suspends Ms. Schweikert's certificate 182327 until a hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Joe Isaac
Joe Isaac, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
March 8, 2006